rickshaws and one electric motor cycle in Rajasthan from Jaipur to Udaipurfrom 2nd to 11th April, 2003. The MMCF has plans to continue further development work in this field.

The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a broad-based programme for eco-friendly battery operated vehicles where the batteries are charged by conventional electricity. The Ministry is providing a subsidy of upto 33% on the cost of such vehicles, exclusive of taxes. The programme is being implemented by the state government departments/nodal agencies.

Transparency in conduct of Government functioning

2477. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the interest of transparency some Governments release the confidential files for peoples' information after a specific period of time;

(b) if so, whether Government have any such permission in the conduct of Government functioning; and

(c) if so, whether it has been done so ever?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) In order to promote openness, transparency and accountability in administration, Government of India have enacted the 'Freedom of Information Act, 2002'. Subject to certain exemptions as are specified therein, the Act provides for freedom to every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities. A provision has also been made in the Act that with the exception of information, the disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, strategic scientific and economic interest of India or conduct of international relations, any information relating to any occurrence, event or matter which has taken place, occurred or happened twenty-five years before the date on which any request is made under the Act shall be provided to any person making such a request.

(b)-and (c) The date from which the 'Freedom of Information Act, 2002' shall come into force has not yet been appointed.

Implementation of recommendations of the ERC

2478. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of Economic Reforms Commission's recommendations during the last one year, especially in the field of downsizing the number of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the success achieved in downsizing the number of employees, Ministry/Department-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government failed to implement the recommendations made by Geetha Krishnan Committee; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (e) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC), under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishanan, had submitted in all ten reports, covering 36 Ministries/Departments and four specific issues, namely, Food Subsidy, Fertilizer Subsidy, Autonomous Institutions and Optimizing Staff Strength. The recommendations contained in these reports were forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments and these are at various stages of implementation. The ERC identified about 42,000 posts for abolition in various Ministries/Departments. On further scrutiny, about 24,000 posts have been identified for abolition by various Ministries/Departments. The ERC's recommendations are reviewed regularly. Based on the recommendations of ERC, around 16,924 posts have been abolished so far in various Ministries/Departments. Ministry-wise/Department-wise position is given below: